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**\* MESSAGE \***

In connection with Serial No. 10/517,356:  
Amendment (in response to May 1, 2008 Office Action).

Due Date: August 1, 2008

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Dkt. 2271/73321

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Masanori HIRANO

Serial No.: 10/517,356

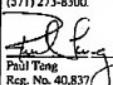
Group Art Unit: 2625

Date Filed: November 22, 2004

Examiner: Stephen M. Brinich

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July 30, 2008

Date

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2008 in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 5.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.